A Python Primer for Mathematics

January 20, 2019

Contents

	0.1	Introduction
1	Pytl	non language basics
	1.1	Comments
	1.2	Basic calculations with numbers
	1.3	Variables
	1.4	Strings (text)
	1.5	Unpacking
	1.6	The print function
	1.7	The str, int and float functions
	1.8	Comparisons
2		ratements
	2.1	If statements
	2.2	If else statements
	2.3	If elif else statements
3	List	\mathbf{s}
	3.1	Tuples
	3.2	List slicing
	3.3	Sorting
	3.4	Zipping
	3.5	Unzipping
4	Loo	ps 15
	4.1	For-loops
	4.2	While loops
	4.3	You should loop like a Pythonista not a C-snake
5	Con	nputing with lists
J	5.1	sum, max, min
	5.2	Computing with comprehensions: sum, max, min
	5.3	More computing with min and max
	ن.ن	

6	List comprehensions 21				
	6.1 Computing with comprehensions: sum, min, max				
	6.2 More computing with min and max	23			
7	Functions 24				
		24			
		24			
	1	25			
		26			
	1	26			
	7.5 Making functions with lambda expressions				
	7.6 docstrings	27			
8	The 'any' and 'all' functions	29			
9	Computing with lists	30			
	, ,	30			
		30			
	9.3 More computing with min and max	31			
10	Dictionaries	32			
11	Dictionary comprehensions	34			
12	Importing modules and interactive help	35			
13	Sympy	37			
10		38			
		39			
		39			
	o	40			
		41			
		41			
	13.7 Symbolic differentiation	42			
		43			
	13.9 Making functions out of expressions	44			
14	Numpy	44			
	14.1 Arrays	44			
	14.2 Numpy functions	45			
	14.3 Matrices	45			
	14.4 Matrix row/column operations	46			
15	Basic plotting with matplotlib	47			
	1	47			
	1 . J	47			
		48			
	15.2 Basic scatter plots	49			
	15.3 Parametric plots	50			

	15.4 Changing the aspect ratio, plot range and size	51
	15.5 Plotting with sympy	54
	15.6 Multiple plots on the same axis	55
16	Curve fitting with sympy from first principles	56
17	Curve fitting with numpy	62

0.1 Introduction

This document is meant to prime mathematics students into using Python for doing mathematics symbolically and numerically. It is *not* meant to be used as a comprehensive text, but rather as a demonstrative cheatsheet to get up and running with the basics Python and for using Python for scientific computing as quickly as possible.

We will give very brief introductory demonstrations of the basics of the Python language, before moving on to demonstrations of some of the basic features of the packages *sympy*, *numpy*, and *matplotlib* which are increasingly used in modern scientific computing.

In []:

1 Python language basics

1.1 Comments

```
In [1]: # Everything on a line after a '#' is ignored by Python
```

1.2 Basic calculations with numbers

Addition works as expected

```
In [1]: 1+2
Out[1]: 3
    ... so does subtraction
In [5]: 2.5 - 6
Out[5]: -3.5
    ... and division.
In [4]: 3/2
Out[4]: 1.5
```

The floor division operator // throws away everything after the decimal point (as in long division)

```
In [1]: 13 // 5 # quotient of 13 divided by 5 (disragarding the fractional part or remainder)
```

```
Out[1]: 2
   ... and the % operator gives the remainder of a division (as in long division)
In [6]: 13 % 5 # remainder when 13 is divided by 5
Out[6]: 3
   The power operator ** is often useful (2^4 = 16)
In [8]: 2**4
Out[8]: 16
1.3 Variables
We can assign values to variables
In [9]: a = 5
        b = 6
   ... and then compute with them:
In [11]: a + b
Out[11]: 11
   We can reassign their values,
In [15]: a = 9
   ... to change the outcome of the computation
In [16]: a + b
Out[16]: 15
1.4 Strings (text)
Strings store text. We use either ' ... ' or " ... " to denote a string
In [17]: "This is a string"
Out[17]: 'This is a string'
In [18]: 'This is also a string'
Out[18]: 'This is also a string'
   We can join strings using the "+" operator. This is called concatenation.
In [19]: "begin" + "ner" + "s"
```

```
Out[19]: 'beginners'
   We can assign strings to variables...
In [20]: part1 = "This is a message "
         part2 = "for you"
   ... and concatenate the variables
In [22]: full_message = part1 + part2
         full_message
Out[22]: 'This is a message for you'
   We can access individual characters of a string. (Remember that we index from starting from
zero!)
In [23]: n = 2
         full_message[n]
Out[23]: 'i'
   We can also multiply strings.
   Plug your ears and go ...
In [24]: "la"*10
Out[24]: 'lalalalalalalalalala'
1.5 Unpacking
There is a more efficient way of writing
a = 1
b = 2
c = 3
d = 4
   The following is called unpacking:
In [29]: a, b, c, d = 1,2,3,4
         a, b, c, d = (1,2,3,4)
In [30]: d
Out[30]: 4
   We are not restricted to just numbers. We can unpack anything
In [31]: firstname, lastname, age = ("john", "von neumann", 103)
         lastname
Out[31]: 'von neumann'
In [32]: age
```

Out[32]: 103

1.6 The print function

We can output text to the screen using the "print" function

1.7 The str, int and float functions

We can convert numbers to strings with the str function:

```
In [1]: str(12)
Out[1]: '12'
    ... and strings to numbers using the int or float functions:
In [2]: int("13")
Out[2]: 13
In [3]: float("1.111")
Out[3]: 1.111
```

1.8 Comparisons

We can ask Python if statements are true of false

```
In [35]: 4 < 6
Out[35]: True
In [36]: 4 <= 6
Out[36]: True
In [37]: 4 >= 6
Out[37]: False
In [38]: 5<5
Out[38]: False
In [39]: 5<=5</pre>
```

```
Out [39]: True
   Notice the double equals "==" when asking is an equality is true:
In [40]: 3 == 3
Out[40]: True
In [41]: 3 == 4
Out[41]: False
   ... a single "=" will not work to compare numbers:
In [42]: 3 = 3
          File "<ipython-input-42-49c8ce3fc03c>", line 2
    SyntaxError: can't assign to literal
   The "!=" operator means "not equal to"
In [43]: 3 != 4
Out [43]: True
   We can also compare variables
In [44]: a,b,c = 5,6,7
In [45]: b != 7
Out[45]: True
In [46]: a < 5
Out[46]: False
In [47]: a <= 5
Out[47]: True
In [48]: b <= a
Out[48]: False
In [49]: a < b < c
```

```
Out[49]: True
```

We can also do computations in comparisons. Is the remainder when dividing by 2 equal to zero, i.e., Is b even? Is c even?

```
In [51]: b % 2 == 0  # 6 is even
Out[51]: True
In [53]: c % 2 == 0  # 7 is odd
Out[53]: False
```

2 If statements

With if statements we can control the flow of execution of a program.

2.1 If ... statements

```
In [2]: a,b = 5,6
    if a == b:
        # this is not executed because 'a == b' is false
        print("a is equal to b")

if a <= b:
    # this is executed because 'a <= b' is true
        print("a is less than or equal to b")

a is less than or equal to b</pre>
```

2.2 If ... else ... statements

2.3 If ... elif ... else ... statements

```
In [3]: name = "bobby"

if name == "alice":
    print("Hi Alice")
```

```
elif name == "bobby":
    print("Hi Bob")
elif name == "richard":
    print("Hi Ricky")
else:
    print("Hi Stranger")
```

3 Lists

Lists are a fundamental data structure in Python. As the name suggests, we use them to store a collection of objects in a list (order matters)

We make a list using the [...] notation.

```
In [1]: boy_names = [
            "benny", "adam", "bobby",
            "randal", "timmy", "cartman",
             "morty", "junior-son",
             "voldemort", "boeta", "pula",
             "zane"
        ]
   How long is this list?
In [2]: len(boy_names)
Out[2]: 12
   Is "morty" in the list?
In [3]: "morty" in boy_names
Out[3]: True
   Is "xavier" in the list?
In [4]: "xavier" in boy_names
Out[4]: False
   We can access the zeroth element in the list.
In [5]: boy_names[0]
Out[5]: 'benny'
```

WARNING! Remember that we always start index from zero!

We will distinguish between the "first" and "oneth" element. "First element of boy_names" is ambiguous, do we mean boy_names[0] or boy_names[1]?

By "oneth" or "1-th" element of boy_names we will always mean boy_names[1].

```
In [6]: boy_names[1]
Out[6]: 'adam'
   We can access the last-th element in the list, by using the -1 index. (This is why we index
starting from zero)
In [7]: boy_names[-1]
Out[7]: 'zane'
   ... and can access the 2nd last-th element with the -2 index
In [8]: boy_names[-2]
Out[8]: 'pula'
   We can replace an element
In [9]: boy_names[1] = "adriaan"
        boy_names
Out[9]: ['benny',
         'adriaan',
         'bobby',
          'randal',
          'timmy',
          'cartman',
          'morty',
          'junior-son',
          'voldemort',
          'boeta',
          'pula',
          'zane']
   ... and remove an element
In [10]: del boy_names[1]
         boy_names
Out[10]: ['benny',
           'bobby',
           'randal',
```

'timmy',
'cartman',

```
'morty',
           'junior-son',
           'voldemort',
           'boeta',
           'pula',
           'zane']
   ... and append an element to the end of the list
In [11]: boy_names.append("sabelo")
         boy_names
Out[11]: ['benny',
          'bobby',
           'randal',
           'timmy',
           'cartman',
           'morty',
           'junior-son',
           'voldemort',
           'boeta',
           'pula',
           'zane',
```

3.1 Tuples

'sabelo']

Tuples are like lists, but they are immutable. This means it is not possible to change tuples. We make a tuples using the (...) notation

We can access the last-th element

3.2 List slicing

List slicing is an efficient method of cutting off parts if a list.

We use the ":" operator to make a slice. The following slice results in a new list containing the oneth, twoth, etc. elements:

```
In [22]: girl_names[1:]
Out[22]: ['beatrice', 'candy', 'dolly', 'elaine', 'francine', 'geraldine']
```

We can also slice from the other end. The following list contains everything up to the twoth element, and excludes the threeth element onwards:

```
In [21]: girl_names[:3]
Out[21]: ['alice', 'beatrice', 'candy']
```

We can also slice using negative indeces. The following list contains everything but the last-th element.

```
In [23]: girl_names[:-1]
Out[23]: ['alice', 'beatrice', 'candy', 'dolly', 'elaine', 'francine']
    ... and all but the second-last-th and last-th elements:
In [25]: girl_names[:-2]
Out[25]: ['alice', 'beatrice', 'candy', 'dolly', 'elaine']
    The following list contains the oneth, twoth, threeth, fourth, elements (exclusive)
```

The following list contains the oneth, twoth, threeth, fourth, elements (excluding the fiveth element onward).

3.3 Sorting

We very often want to sort lists. Python includes powerful methods to perform different kinds of sorting. We will work with the following list:

The default ordering for strings is alphabetically. We can just use the "sorted" function:

We can easily sort reverse-alphabetically

```
In [4]: sorted(boy_names, reverse=True)
Out[4]: ['zane',
         'voldemort',
         'timmy',
         'randal',
         'pula',
         'morty',
         'junior-son',
         'cartman',
         'boeta',
         'bobby',
         'benny',
         'adam']
   ... or by length of the strings
In [5]: sorted(boy_names, key = len)
Out[5]: ['adam',
         'pula',
         'zane',
         'benny',
         'bobby',
         'timmy',
         'morty',
         'boeta',
         'randal',
         'cartman',
         'voldemort',
         'junior-son']
```

We can sort with respect to any conceivable ordering. E.g. The following sorts the list alphabetically according to the one-th letter. (See the section on lambda expressions).

3.4 Zipping

Zipping is an efficient way to combine two (or more) lists pairwise. Consider the two lists:

We can "zip" these two lists together to get a "zip" object (zip objects are iterable objects. Their purpose is for optimizing RAM usage).

The zip object can be converted to a list.

```
In [39]: list(name_age_pairs)
Out[39]: [('alice', 10), ('beatrice', 11), ('candy', 10), ('dolly', 9), ('elaine', 8)]
```

Warning! When zipping lists of unequal length the result will have the length of the shortest list:

We can also zip more than two lists:

3.5 Unzipping

Unzipping is the opposite of zipping. I.e., Given a list of pairs, we can unzip the list into two lists: one list containing the first elements of the pairs and one list containing the second elements of the pairs.

Consider:

Let's inspect the lists unzipped_names and unzipped_ages

4 Loops

Loops are used to perform a single operation over and over.

4.1 For-loops

The for-loop is the most used kind of loop. One can think of their operation as follows: "For every element in ...(container), do ...(action) on that element".

The "range" functon is a useful container to loop over. The following example prints every number in the range 0,2,3,...,9:

... do the same, but loop over 4,5,...,9

We are not limited to loop over "ranges", we can loop over any container. This is the preferred way to loop over a list in Python:

We can loop in reverse order by just applying the "reversed" function to our list:

Often one want's to keep a running index. This is easily done with the "enumerate" function.

```
0 -> alice
1 -> beatrice
2 -> candy
3 -> dolly
4 -> elaine
5 -> francine
6 -> geraldine
```

We can also loop directly over zip objects using unpacking

```
In [14]: girl_names = ["alice", "beatrice", "candy",
            "dolly", "elaine", "francine", "geraldine"]
        their_ages = [3,3,7,10,15,11,31]
        for name, age in zip(girl_names, their_ages):
            print("name : ", name )
            print(" age : ", age)
name : alice
  age: 3
name : beatrice
  age: 3
name: candy
  age : 7
name : dolly
  age : 10
name : elaine
  age : 15
name : francine
  age : 11
name : geraldine
  age : 31
```

4.2 While loops

9

While loops are useful when we do not know before hand how many times a loop should execute. One can think of their operation as follows: "While ... (condition) is True, do ...(action)".

```
In [7]: number = 144
    while number % 2 == 0 : # while number is divisible by 2, ...
        number = number // 2 # divide it by two
    print(number)
```

4.3 You should loop like a Pythonista not a C-snake.

Python is not like classic languages e.g., C. We should not use standard C-idioms in Python. Doing so will result in ugly, unreadable and un maintainable code.

DO NOT DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS IN PYTHON. Compare the following bad looping idioms with the proper Pythonic looping idioms above.

Consider the lists

```
In [13]: girl_names = ["alice", "beatrice", "candy",
             "dolly", "elaine", "francine", "geraldine"]
         their_ages = [3,3,7,10,15,11,31]
   DO NOT Loop over a range object unecessarily:
In [9]: for i in range(len(girl_names)):
            print(girl_names[i])
alice
beatrice
candy
dolly
elaine
francine
geraldine
   DO NOT loop in reverse order by accessing indeces:
In [13]: for i in range(len(girl_names)):
             print(girl_names[len(girl_names) - i -1])
geraldine
francine
elaine
dolly
candy
beatrice
alice
   DO NOT keep a running index manually:
In [15]: index = 0
         for name in girl_names:
             print(index, " -> ", name)
             index = index +1
0 -> alice
1 -> beatrice
2 -> candy
```

```
4 -> elaine
5 -> francine
6 -> geraldine
  DO NOT loop over two lists using indeces:
In [12]: for i in range(min(len(girl_names), len(their_ages))):
            print("name : ", girl_names[i] )
                     age : ", their_ages[i])
name : alice
  age: 3
name : beatrice
  age: 3
name: candy
  age : 7
name : dolly
  age : 10
name : elaine
  age : 15
name : francine
  age : 11
name: geraldine
  age : 31
```

5 Computing with lists

5.1 sum, max, min

3 -> dolly

the sum, min and max functions allow for concisely expressing often occuring computations that we might perform on lists.

Consider the list:

```
In [3]: numbers = [3,5,10, 44,100,1,99]
    ...the sum of all the numbers in this list is
In [4]: sum(numbers)
Out[4]: 262
    ... the smallest is
In [5]: min(numbers)
Out[5]: 1
    ... and the largest is
In [6]: max(numbers)
```

5.2 Computing with comprehensions: sum, max, min

We can perform computations with comprehensions. This is useful, because it makes our code easy to read and maintain.

We can compute the sum 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + ... + 100:

```
In [9]: sum(i for i in range(1, 101)) # Why 101?
Out[9]: 5050
    ... or the sum of squares: 1 + 2<sup>2</sup> + 3<sup>2</sup> + 4<sup>2</sup>,...,100<sup>2</sup>:
In [6]: sum(i**2 for i in range(1, 101))
Out[6]: 338350
    ... or the sum of squares of even numbers: 2<sup>2</sup> + 4<sup>2</sup> + 6<sup>2</sup>,...,10000<sup>2</sup>:
In [8]: sum(i**2 for i in range(1, 10001) if i % 2 == 0)
Out[8]: 166716670000
```

We can also use the max or the min functions to find the largets or smallest elements in a list (or other container).

E.g., the smallest square number whose square lies in the interval [536,9000] is...

5.3 More computing with min and max

We can use min and max with any objects that can be compared, like strings which are compared by their alphabetical order.

```
In [12]: names = ["randall", "jamie", "robert", "danaeris", "aegon", "tyrrion", "mother-of-dragor
   The last name alphabetically is
In [14]: max(names)
Out[14]: 'tyrrion'
   ... the first
In [15]: min(names)
Out[15]: 'aegon'
   ... and the longest we can find by using len as a key function (see section on sorting)
In [30]: max(names, key=len)
Out[30]: 'mother-of-dragons-breaker-of-chains'
   ...and the shortest
In [31]: min(names, key=len)
Out[31]: 'jamie'
   ... and more advanced, the shortest and alphabetically first
In [32]: min(names, key=lambda x:(len(x), x))
Out[32]: 'aegon'
   To understand this last example, understand that tuples are compared lexicographi-
cally.[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lexicographical_order]
In []:
```

6 List comprehensions

List comprehensions is a concise way of constructing lists using a for-loop syntax. Consider the list:

We can use a list comprehension to make a new list containing the zeroth letter of each name in the list:

```
In [2]: first_letters = [name[0] for name in girl_names]
        first_letters
Out[2]: ['a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g']
   ... or a list with the length of every name:
In [2]: length_of_names = [len(name) for name in girl_names]
        length_of_names
Out[2]: [5, 8, 5, 5, 6, 8, 9]
   ... or a list of name-length-pairs
In [3]: names_length_pairs = [ ( name, len(name) ) for name in girl_names]
        names_length_pairs
Out[3]: [('alice', 5),
         ('beatrice', 8),
         ('candy', 5),
         ('dolly', 5),
         ('elaine', 6),
         ('francine', 8),
         ('geraldine', 9)]
```

A useful feature is adding a conditional. The following makes a new list only containing the "long" names:

6.1 Computing with comprehensions: sum, min, max

We can perform computations with comprehensions. This is useful, because it makes our code easy to read and maintain.

We can compute the sum 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + ... + 100:

```
In [9]: sum(i for i in range(1, 101)) # Why 101?
Out[9]: 5050
    ... or the sum of squares: 1 + 2<sup>2</sup> + 3<sup>2</sup> + 4<sup>2</sup>,...,100<sup>2</sup>:
In [6]: sum(i**2 for i in range(1, 101))
Out[6]: 338350
```

```
... or the sum of squares of even numbers: 2^2 + 4^2 + 6^2, ..., 10000^2:
```

```
In [8]: sum(i**2 for i in range(1, 10001) if i % 2 == 0)
Out[8]: 166716670000
```

We can also use the max or the min functions to find the largets or smallest elements in a list (or other container).

E.g., the smallest square number whose square lies in the interval [536,9000] is...

6.2 More computing with min and max

In [15]: min(names)

We can use min and max with any objects that can be compared, like strings which are compared by their alphabetical order.

```
In [12]: names = ["randall", "jamie", "robert", "danaeris", "aegon", "tyrrion", "mother-of-dragor
The last name alphabetically is
In [14]: max(names)
Out[14]: 'tyrrion'
... the first
```

```
Out[15]: 'aegon'
    ... and the longest we can find by using len as a key function (see section on sorting)
In [30]: max(names, key=len)
Out[30]: 'mother-of-dragons-breaker-of-chains'
    ... and the shortest
In [31]: min(names, key=len)
Out[31]: 'jamie'
    ... and more advanced, the shortest and alphabetically first
In [32]: min(names, key=lambda x:(len(x), x))
Out[32]: 'aegon'
    To understand this last example, understand that Python tuples are compared lexicographically. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lexicographical_order
```

7 Functions

In []:

Functions allow for the easy reuse of bits of code. They take parameters/input, and can return a result. Functions are defined using the *def* keyword.

7.1 Example: Say hello

We define a function that takes *name* as parameter, and prints a greeting for that name:

We can now call this function with different inputs:

7.2 Example: Divisible by 11

We define a function that takes *number* as input and *returns* whether or not the number is divisible by 11

```
In [7]: def is_divisible_by_11(number):
           return number % 11 == 0
  Lets check which numbers of 10,11,12,...,24 are divisible by 11
In [8]: for number in range(10, 25):
            print(number, "is divisible by 11 : ", is_divisible_by_11(number))
10 is divisible by 11 : False
11 is divisible by 11: True
12 is divisible by 11 : False
13 is divisible by 11 : False
14 is divisible by 11 : False
15 is divisible by 11 : False
16 is divisible by 11 : False
17 is divisible by 11 : False
18 is divisible by 11 : False
19 is divisible by 11 : False
20 is divisible by 11 : False
21 is divisible by 11 : False
22 is divisible by 11 : True
23 is divisible by 11 : False
24 is divisible by 11 : False
```

7.3 Example: The Collatz function

Example: We define the *collatz* function according to the following specification. Input:

• A number *n*.

Output:

- return 1 if n = 1
- return n/2 if n is even
- return 3n + 1 if n is odd

```
In [9]: def collatz(number):
    if number == 1:
        return number
    elif number % 2 == 0:
        return number // 2
    else:
        return 3*number + 1
```

Let's try it out on 3,11,24 and 65

Let's repeatedly apply the collatz function to a number using a while loop. We always tend to get back to 1... why is that?

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collatz_conjecture

```
In [12]: current_number = 15
         while current_number != 1:
             current_number = collatz(current_number)
             print(current_number)
46
23
70
35
106
53
160
80
40
20
10
5
16
8
4
2
1
```

7.4 Recursion

Recursion is what happens when a functon calls itself.

7.4.1 Example: Fibonacci numbers

A good example of recursion is the process of generating Fibonacci numbers 1,1,2,3,5,8,13,21,34,55,.... These are formally defined as the sequence (f_n) with $f_1 := 1$, $f_2 := 1$ and $f_n := f_{n-1} + f_{n-2}$ for all $n \in \{3,4,5...\}$

Pay attention how the following function calls itself:

Let's compute the first 20 fibonacci numbers

```
In [14]: for i in range(1,20):
              print(fibonacci(i))
1
1
2
3
5
8
13
21
34
55
89
144
233
377
610
987
1597
2584
4181
```

7.5 Making functions with lambda expressions

Very simple functions can be defined using *lambda* expressions. We've already briefly encountered lambda expressions in the section on sorting.

```
In [16]: f = lambda x: 3*x
    Make sure you understand why f(4)=12
In [19]: f(4)
Out[19]: 12
    ...and f('a')='aaa'
```

```
In [20]: f("a")
Out[20]: 'aaa'
```

7.6 docstrings

One's code is usually used by other people. These people might need to know what a function you wrote does. One may do this by writing a short explanation in a *docstring* in the first line of the function definition. This can be accessed by calling the help function on an object.

```
In [25]: def fibonacci_undocumented(n):
             if n == 1:
                 return 1
             elif n == 2:
                 return 1
             else:
                 return fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2)
   No help is forthcoming...
In [26]: help(fibonacci_undocumented)
Help on function fibonacci_undocumented in module __main__:
fibonacci_undocumented(n)
   ... unless we give it:
In [29]: def fibonacci(n):
             Returns the nth fibonacci number.
             Input: n
             Output: the nth fibonacci number
             E.g.fibonacci(1) = 1
                 fibonacci(2) = 1
                 fibonacci(3) = 2
             if n == 1:
                 return 1
             elif n == 2:
                 return 1
             else:
                 return fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2)
In [30]: help(fibonacci)
```

```
Help on function fibonacci in module __main__:
fibonacci(n)
  Returns the nth fibonacci number.

Input: n
  Output: the nth fibonacci number

E.g.fibonacci(1) = 1
    fibonacci(2) = 1
    fibonacci(3) = 2
    ...
```

8 The 'any' and 'all' functions

Sometimes one is required to decide if a number of statements in a list are *all* true.

```
In [4]: all([True, True, True, True]) # All true? Yes.
Out[4]: True
In [7]: all([True, True, False, True]) # All true? No.
Out[7]: False
   ... and sometimes one is required to decide if at least one from a number of statements is true:
In [15]: any([True, False, False, True]) # Is at least one statement true? Yes.
Out[15]: True
In [10]: any([False, False, False, False]) # Is at least one statement true? No.
Out[10]: False
   Examples
   The following examples illustrate how the all and any functions can be used.
In [2]: # Do *all* the letters "a", "b", "l" occur the phrase "mary had a little lamb"?
        # Yes. So the following evaluates to True.
        all([letter in "mary had a little lamb" for letter in ["a", "b", "l"]])
Out[2]: True
In [4]: # Do *all* the letters "a", "b", "q" occur the phrase "the quick brown fox"?
        # No. The letter "a" does not occur, so the following evaluates to False.
        all([letter in "the quick brown fox" for letter in ["a", "b", "q"]])
```

9 Computing with lists

9.1 sum, max, min

the sum, min and max functions allow for concisely expressing often occuring computations that we might perform on lists.

Consider the list:

```
In [3]: numbers = [3,5,10, 44,100,1,99]
    ...the sum of all the numbers in this list is
In [4]: sum(numbers)
Out[4]: 262
    ... the smallest is
In [5]: min(numbers)
Out[5]: 1
    ... and the largest is
In [6]: max(numbers)
```

9.2 Computing with comprehensions: sum, min, max

We can perform computations with comprehensions. This is useful, because it makes our code easy to read and maintain.

We can compute the sum 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + ... + 100:

```
In [9]: sum(i for i in range(1, 101)) # Why 101?
Out[9]: 5050
```

```
... or the sum of squares: 1 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2, ..., 100^2:
In [6]: sum(i**2 for i in range(1, 101))
Out[6]: 338350
   ... or the sum of squares of even numbers: 2^2 + 4^2 + 6^2, \dots, 10000^2:
In [8]: sum(i**2 for i in range(1, 10001) if i % 2 == 0)
Out[8]: 166716670000
   We can also use the max or the min functions to find the largets or smallest elements in a list
(or other container).
   E.g., the smallest square number whose square lies in the interval [536,9000] is...
In [3]: min(i for i in range(1,9001) if 536 <= i**2 <= 9000 )</pre>
Out[3]: 24
   ... and the largest is
In [4]: max(i for i in range(1,9001) if 536 <= i**2 <= 9000 )</pre>
Out[4]: 94
   If we define we can do more advanced searches as well.
   E.g., finding the smallest prime number in the interval [536,9000]:
In [27]: def is_prime(n):
              return not any (n \% j==0 \text{ for } j \text{ in } range(2,n))
In [28]: min(p for p in range(536,9001) if is_prime(p))
Out[28]: 541
   ...and the largest
In [29]: max(p for p in range(536,9001) if is_prime(p))
```

9.3 More computing with min and max

Out[29]: 8999

We can use min and max with any objects that can be compared, like strings which are compared by their alphabetical order.

```
In [12]: names = ["randall", "jamie", "robert", "danaeris", "aegon", "tyrrion", "mother-of-dragor
The last name alphabetically is
In [14]: max(names)
```

```
Out[14]: 'tyrrion'
   ... the first
In [15]: min(names)
Out[15]: 'aegon'
   ... and the longest we can find by using len as a key function (see section on sorting)
In [30]: max(names, key=len)
Out[30]: 'mother-of-dragons-breaker-of-chains'
   ...and the shortest
In [31]: min(names, key=len)
Out[31]: 'jamie'
   ... and more advanced, the shortest and alphabetically first
In [32]: min(names, key=lambda x:(len(x), x))
Out[32]: 'aegon'
   To understand this last example, understand that tuples are compared lexicographi-
cally.[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lexicographical_order]
In []:
```

10 Dictionaries

Dictionaries are datastructures that map one object to another. We create a dictionary using the { ... : ... } notation.

Consider the dictionary:

We can access a *value* associated to a specific *key*:

```
In [2]: surname_dictionary["kevin"]
Out[2]: 'de koker'
In [3]: surname_dictionary["alice"]
Out[3]: 'munro'
   An error is raised if the key is not in the dictionary:
In [4]: surname_dictionary["bobby"]
                                                    Traceback (most recent call last)
        KeyError
        <ipython-input-4-aebb82606656> in <module>()
    ---> 1 surname_dictionary["bobby"]
        KeyError: 'bobby'
   We can ask if a key is in the dictionary:
In [5]: "kevin" in surname_dictionary
Out[5]: True
In [6]: "bobby" in surname_dictionary
Out[6]: False
   ... the in operator only checks keys, not values:
In [7]: "de koker" in surname_dictionary
Out[7]: False
   We can add elements:
In [8]: surname_dictionary["katie"] = "van der merwe"
        surname_dictionary
Out[8]: {'alice': 'munro',
         'doris': 'lessing',
         'john': 'mphako',
         'katie': 'van der merwe',
         'kevin': 'de koker'}
```

```
... and remove elements:
In [10]: del surname_dictionary["alice"]
         surname_dictionary
Out[10]: {'doris': 'lessing',
           'john': 'mphako',
           'katie': 'van der merwe',
           'kevin': 'de koker'}
   Iterating over a dictionary, iterates over the keys:
In [11]: for key in surname_dictionary:
              print(key)
doris
john
kevin
katie
   ... but we can also iterate over the values using .values():
In [12]: for key in surname_dictionary.values():
              print(key)
lessing
mphako
de koker
van der merwe
   ... or we can iterate over key-value pairs using .items():
In [13]: for pair in surname_dictionary.items():
              print(pair)
('doris', 'lessing')
('john', 'mphako')
('kevin', 'de koker')
('katie', 'van der merwe')
   It is often useful to unpack such pairs:
In [14]: for firstname, lastname in surname_dictionary.items():
              print(firstname, "-->", lastname[0])
doris --> 1
john --> m
kevin --> d
katie --> v
```

11 Dictionary comprehensions

Dictionary comprehension is a concise way to construct dictionaries using a for-loop syntax. Consider:

```
In [1]: surname_dictionary = {
            # key : #value,
            "kevin" : "de koker",
            "john" : "mphako",
            "alice" : "munro",
            "doris" : "lessing",
        }
        surname_dictionary
Out[1]: {'alice': 'munro', 'doris': 'lessing', 'john': 'mphako', 'kevin': 'de koker'}
   We construct a dictionary which maps a name to the length of the surname.
In [2]: length_of_surname_dictionary = {
            firstname : len(lastname) for firstname, lastname in surname_dictionary.items()
        }
        length_of_surname_dictionary
Out[2]: {'alice': 5, 'doris': 7, 'john': 6, 'kevin': 8}
   We construct a dictionary which filtered all items whose last name start with "m"
In [3]: last_name_starts_with_m = {
            firstname : lastname
                for firstname, lastname in surname_dictionary.items()
                    if "m" == lastname[0]
        }
        last_name_starts_with_m
Out[3]: {'alice': 'munro', 'john': 'mphako'}
```

12 Importing modules and interactive help

Not all Python functionality is builtin. Extra functionality is provided in *modules*. To use the extra functionality provided by a module we must *import* the module.

The syntax for importing modules are:

```
import ...
from ... import ...
import ... as ...

Let's import the math module:

In [2]: import math
```

We can see what objects the math module provides by calling the *dir* method on it:

```
In [3]: dir(math)
Out[3]: ['__doc__',
         '__loader__',
         '__name__',
         '__package__',
         '__spec__',
         'acos',
         'acosh',
         'asin',
         'asinh',
         'atan',
         'atan2',
         'atanh',
         'ceil',
         'copysign',
         'cos',
         'cosh',
         'degrees',
         'e',
         'erf',
         'erfc',
         'exp',
         'expm1',
         'fabs',
         'factorial',
         'floor',
         'fmod',
         'frexp',
         'fsum',
          'gamma',
          'gcd',
         'hypot',
         'inf',
         'isclose',
         'isfinite',
         'isinf',
         'isnan',
         'ldexp',
         'lgamma',
         'log',
         'log10',
         'log1p',
         'log2',
         'modf',
         'nan',
```

```
'pi',
         'pow',
         'radians',
         'sin',
         'sinh',
         'sqrt',
         'tan',
         'tanh',
         'trunc']
   If we need to know more about an object, then we can the help function on it:
In [4]: help(math.acos)
Help on built-in function acos in module math:
acos(...)
    acos(x)
    Return the arc cosine (measured in radians) of x.
In [6]: help(math.radians)
Help on built-in function radians in module math:
radians(...)
    radians(x)
    Convert angle x from degrees to radians.
   With the math module imported, we can access its contents and call the functions it defines:
In [7]: math.pi
Out[7]: 3.141592653589793
In [8]: math.acos(-1)
Out[8]: 3.141592653589793
In [9]: math.sin(math.radians(90))
```

Out[9]: 1.0

13 Sympy

Sympy is an external Python module that allows for symbolic computations like solving equations, differentiation and integration.

We import the *sympy* module

```
In [2]: import sympy
```

If we want to have pretty output inside a Jupyter notebook, we call sympy.init_printing

```
In [3]: sympy.init_printing()
```

We can define symbols using the sympy.symbols functon:

```
In [4]: x,y = sympy.symbols("x y")
```

... or we can import standard symbols from the sympy.abc module

With these symbols, we can define an algebraic expression in the variables x and y

Out[6]:

$$\sin\left(x^2 - x + a\cos\left(y\right) - 1\right)$$

13.1 Expanding, factoring and simplifying expressions

We can expand expressions using sympy.expand

In [7]: sympy.expand(
$$(x+4)*(x-6)$$
)

Out[7]:

$$x^2 - 2x - 24$$

We can factor expressions using sympy.factor

In [8]: sympy.factor(
$$x**2-x-20$$
)

Out[8]:

$$(x-5)(x+4)$$

We can make more complicated expressions ...

In [47]:
$$(x**3 + x**2 - x - 1)/(x**2 + 2*x + 1)$$

Out [47]:

$$\frac{x^3 + x^2 - x - 1}{x^2 + 2x + 1}$$

... and simplify them using sympy.simplify

```
In [9]: sympy.simplify( (x**3 + x**2 - x - 1)/(x**2 + 2*x + 1) )
Out[9]:
```

x-1

13.2 Substituting values into expressions

Let's define the quadratic expression $x^2 - x - 1$

```
In [10]: from sympy.abc import x
          quadratic_expression = x**2 - x - 1
```

... and substitute the value 1 for the symbol *x* using the .subs function. Notice the dictionary! Make sure you understand why the result is -1.

```
In [12]: quadratic_expression.subs({x : 1})
Out[12]:
```

-1

We substitute the value -2 for the symbol *x* using the .subs function. Make sure you understand why the result is 5.

```
In [15]: quadratic_expression.subs({x : -2})
Out[15]:
```

5

13.3 Solving equations

We can solve equations with sympy.

WARNING: We cannot use "=" or "==" to define equations, we must use sympy.Eq. We make the equation $x^2 - x - 1 = 0$.

Out[17]:

$$x^2 - x - 1 = 0$$

... and solve for *x* in this equation by calling the sympy.solve function

In [18]: sympy.solve(sympy.Eq(x**2 - x - 1, 0), x)

Out[18]:

$$\left[\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right]$$

... by just providing an expression to sympy.solve, it solves the equation expression=0.

In [19]: sympy.solve(x**2 - x - 1, x)

Out[19]:

$$\left[\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right]$$

In []:

We can solve more complicated equations. Let's solve for θ in: $\cos(\theta) = \sin(\theta)$

The equation has infinitely many solutions in θ . However, sympy.solve only gives two:

Out [24]:

$$\left[-\frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{4}\right]$$

... sympy.solveset gives all infinitely many solutions

In [25]: sympy.solveset(sympy.Eq(sympy.cos(theta), sympy.sin(theta)), theta)

Out[25]:

$$\left\{2n\pi + \frac{5\pi}{4} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\right\} \cup \left\{2n\pi + \frac{\pi}{4} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\right\}$$

13.4 Solving systems of equations

We can also solve systems of equations like the following in *x* and *y*:

$$2x + 3y = 1$$
$$3x + 2y = 2$$

$$\left\{x:\frac{4}{5},\quad y:-\frac{1}{5}\right\}$$

13.5 Generating complicated expressions

We can use functions to generate complicated expressions.

Let's define a function *P* that, for any number n, returns a polynomial of the form

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n} kx^{k}$$

We can now obtain the 6th degree polynomial of the given form by calling P(6)

In [60]: P(6)
Out[60]:

$$6x^6 + 5x^5 + 4x^4 + 3x^3 + 2x^2 + x$$

... or the 10th degree polynomial by calling P(10)

In [33]: P(10)

Out[33]:

$$10x^{10} + 9x^9 + 8x^8 + 7x^7 + 6x^6 + 5x^5 + 4x^4 + 3x^3 + 2x^2 + x$$

For fun, let's solve the equation $4x^4 + 3x^3 + 2x^2 + x = 0$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0, & -\frac{1}{4} + \frac{5}{16\left(-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}i}{2}\right)\sqrt[3]{\frac{135}{64} + \frac{15\sqrt{6}}{16}}} - \frac{1}{3}\left(-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}i}{2}\right)\sqrt[3]{\frac{135}{64} + \frac{15\sqrt{6}}{16}}, & -\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{3}\left(-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}i}{2}\right)\sqrt[3]{\frac{135}{64} + \frac{15\sqrt{6}}{16}} \end{bmatrix}$$

13.6 Numerical approximation

Sometimes we want numerical approximations to mathematical constants. We can compute them to arbitrary precision with the sympy's .n function.

```
In [36]: import sympy
In [37]: sympy.pi
Out [37]:
                                              \pi
   ... pi approximated to 50 digits is:
In [40]: sympy.pi.n(50)
Out [40]:
                   3.1415926535897932384626433832795028841971693993751
In [41]: sympy.sqrt(2)
Out [41]:
                                              \sqrt{2}
   \sqrt{2} two approximated to 50 digits is
In [42]: sympy.sqrt(2).n(50)
Out [42]:
                   1.4142135623730950488016887242096980785696718753769
   ... we can even find approximations to more complicated expressions:
In [44]: sympy.exp( sympy.root(sympy.sqrt(2)-1,5) )
Out [44]:
                                           \rho \sqrt[5]{-1+\sqrt{2}}
In [45]: sympy.exp(sympy.root(sympy.sqrt(2)-1,5)).n(50)
Out [45]:
```

13.7 Symbolic differentiation

We can use sympy to compute derivatives of expressions using the sympy.diff function. Let's compute $\frac{d}{dx}(x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1)$

Out[46]:

$$4x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x + 1$$

... or the more complicated derivative $\frac{d}{dx}\left((x^4+x^3+x^2+x+1)e^{x^2+\sin(x^2)}\right)$

In [47]: sympy.diff((x**4+x**3+x**2+x+1)*sympy.exp(x**2 + sympy.sin(x**2)), x)
Out[47]:

$$(2x\cos(x^2) + 2x)(x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1)e^{x^2 + \sin(x^2)} + (4x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x + 1)e^{x^2 + \sin(x^2)}$$

13.8 Symbolic integration

We can use sympy to compute derivatives of expressions using the sympy.integrate function. Let's compute $\int (x^2 - x - 1) dx$:

Out [48]:

$$\frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^2}{2} - x$$

In [28]: # ... another example, that illustrates integration by parts:

... or another example (notice the integration by parts): $\int xe^x dx$

Out [49]:

$$(x-1)e^x$$

We can also compute definite integrals. E.g., $\int_0^5 xe^x dx$.

In [51]:
$$sympy.integrate(x * sympy.exp(x), (x, 0, 5))$$

Out [51]:

$$1 + 4e^5$$

13.9 Making functions out of expressions

Especially for plotting, it is useful to be able to make a function out of a sympy expression. We can do this with the sympy.lambdify function

```
In [52]: import sympy from sympy.abc import x,y  \text{cubic} = x**3 - x**2 + x + 3 \\  f = \text{sympy.lambdify}([x], \text{cubic})  In []: Now we have the function f(x) := x^3 - x^2 + x + 3 and we can call it: In [56]: f(2) Out [56]:  9  In [57]: f(x) Out [57]:  x^3 - x^2 + x + 3  In [58]: f(y) Out [58]:
```

14 Numpy

Numpy is a widely used external package for doing matrix computations. It is designed to be very fast.

14.1 Arrays

The array is the basic datastructure of numpy. We can think of them as vectors.

14.2 Numpy functions

Numpy provides many mathematical functions like numpy.sin, numpy.cos, etc. When applying these to arrays, they are applied entry-wise. This is useful for plotting.

14.3 Matrices

Matrices can be represented as 2D numpy arrays

We can access columns, e.g., the twoth column:

```
In [13]: M[:,2]
Out[13]: array([3, 6, 9])
```

We can access columns, e.g., the oneth row:

```
In [15]: M[1,:]
Out[15]: array([4, 5, 6])
```

We can compute multiply a matrix with a vector using the .dot function:

We can multiply a matrix with another matrix, also using the .dot function:

Waring: The * operator does entrywise multiplication!

14.4 Matrix row/column operations

Consider:

We can easily perform row/column swaps. The following swaps the zeroth and oneth rows of M:

The following swaps the oneth and twoth columns of M:

```
In [27]: M[:,[1,2]] = M[:,[2,1]]
In [29]: M
```

... and we can perform elementary row operations (e.g., for implementing Gauss elimination). The following replaces the twoth row with 4 times the twoth row - 7 times the zeroth row

15 Basic plotting with matplotlib

Matplotlib is a powerful plotting module for python. It is a bit difficult to use, however. We usually use it together with numpy.

```
In [2]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
   import numpy as np
```

15.1 Basic line plots

We can make basic line plots with matplotlib. We first import it with numpy:

```
15.1.1 Example y = x^2 + 2
```

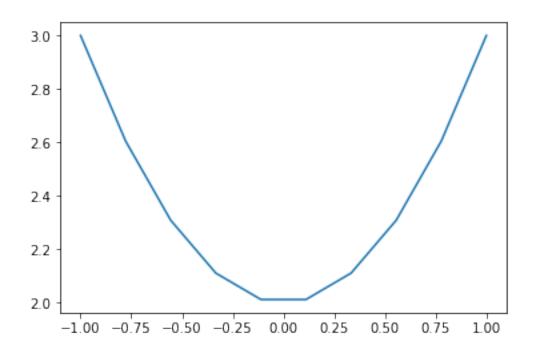
... we will plot the points satisfying the equation $y = x^2 + 2$ with $x \in (-1, 1)$.

```
In [1]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
   import numpy as np

# We create a figure and axes to plot on
   fig, ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()

X = np.linspace(-1, 1, 10) # We take 10 evenly spaced x-values in the interval (-1,1)
Y = X**2 + 2 # We compute the Y-values

ax.plot(X, Y) # We plot the data on the axes
   plt.show() # We show the plot
```



15.1.2 Example: $f(x) := \sin(x) + \frac{1}{2}\sin(4x)$

We plot the graph of the function $f(x) := \sin(x) + \frac{1}{2}\sin(4x)$ on the interval $(-\pi, 3\pi)$

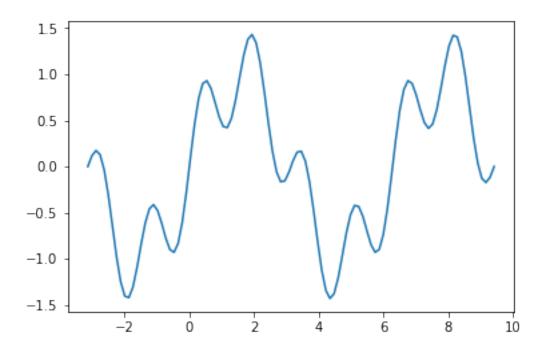
```
In [4]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
   import numpy as np

fig, ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()

f = lambda x : np.sin(x) + .5*np.sin(4*x)

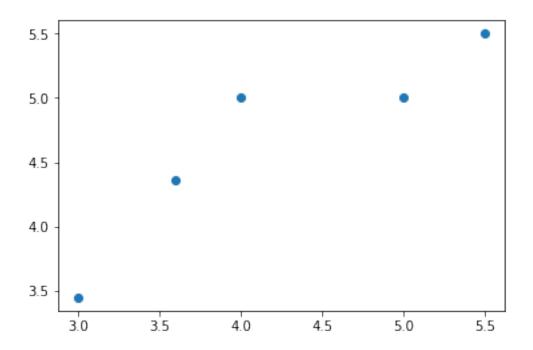
X = np.linspace(-np.pi, 3*np.pi, 100)

ax.plot(X, f(X))
   plt.show()
```



15.2 Basic scatter plots

Scatter plots are plots of discrete points.



15.3 Parametric plots

```
We can also plot parametric funcitons:
```

```
We will plot the vector function f : [0,4] \to \mathbb{R}^2 defined by f(t) := (\cos(t), \sin(t)) for t \in [0,4].
```

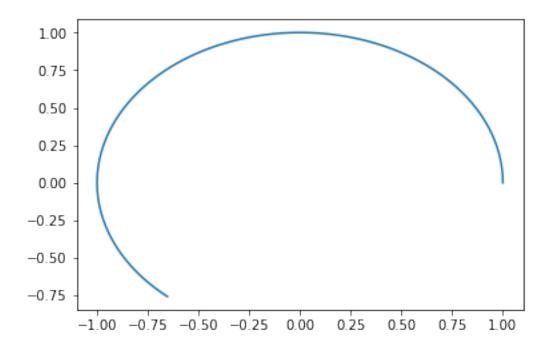
```
In [6]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import numpy as np

fig, ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()

f = lambda t: (np.cos(t), np.sin(t))

T = np.linspace(0,4, 100)
    X,Y = f(T)

ax.plot(X, Y)
    plt.show()
```



15.4 Changing the aspect ratio, plot range and size

Sometimes our plots are squashed, we can control this by changing the axes' aspect ratio. See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aspect_ratio_(image)

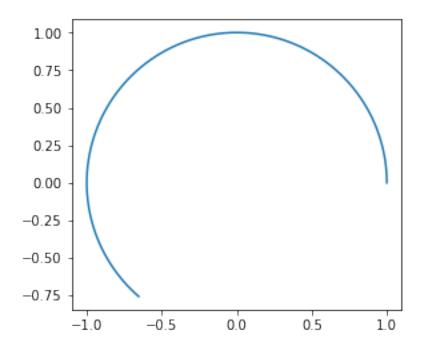
```
In [9]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import numpy as np

fig, ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()
    ax.set_aspect(1) # axes' "aspect ratio" equal to 1

f = lambda t: (np.cos(t), np.sin(t))

T = np.linspace(0,4, 100)
    X,Y = f(T)

ax.plot(X, Y)
    plt.show()
```



We can control the plot range with the functions axes.set_xlim and axes.set_ylim

```
In [10]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import numpy as np

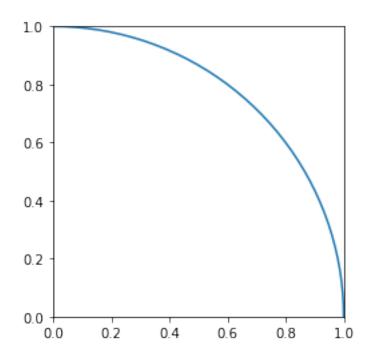
fig, ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()
    ax.set_aspect(1)

ax.set_xlim(0,1) # We restrict to the first quadrant
    ax.set_ylim(0,1)

f = lambda t: (np.cos(t), np.sin(t))

T = np.linspace(0,4, 100)
    X,Y = f(T)

ax.plot(X, Y)
    plt.show()
```



... or we can make our plots a bit larger:

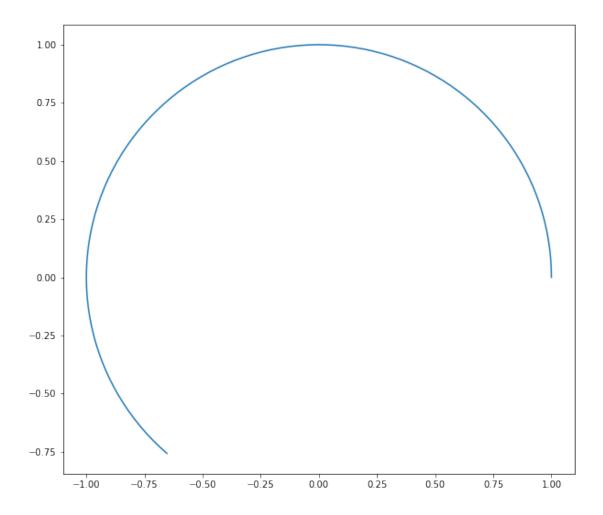
```
In [11]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import numpy as np

# We can make our plot a bit larger
    fig = plt.figure(figsize=(10,10)) # in inches! D:<
        ax = plt.axes()
        ax.set_aspect(1)

f = lambda t: (np.cos(t), np.sin(t))

T = np.linspace(0,4, 100)
X,Y = f(T)

ax.plot(X, Y)
plt.show()</pre>
```



15.5 Plotting with sympy

Often we want to plot sympy expressions. We can do this easily by converting expressions to functions using the sympy.lambdify function.

Let's plot the graph of $f: [-1,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f(x) := x^3 - x^2 + x + 3$ with $x \in (-1,1)$.

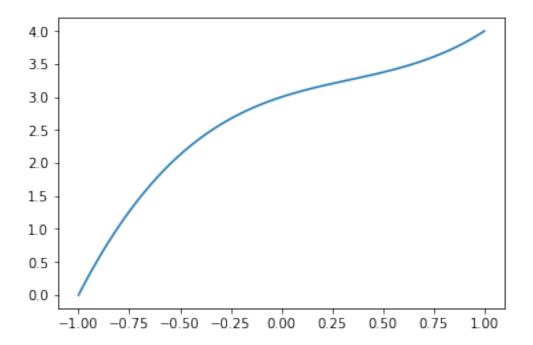
```
In [2]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import numpy as np

from sympy.abc import x
    import sympy

fig, ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()

f = sympy.lambdify([x], x**3 - x**2 + x +3) # We define the function f
    X = np.linspace(-1, 1, 100)
```

```
ax.plot(X, f(X))
plt.show()
```



15.6 Multiple plots on the same axis

We can easily plot multiple functions on the same set of axes:

```
In [3]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import numpy as np

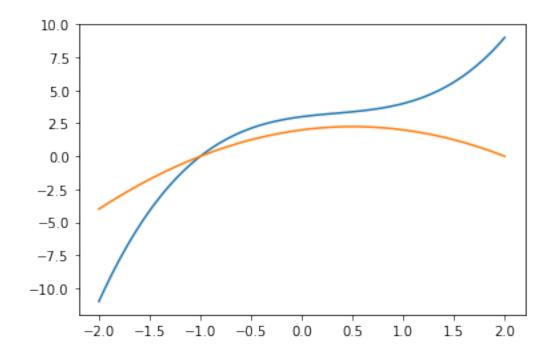
from sympy.abc import x
    import sympy

fig, ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()

f = sympy.lambdify([x], x**3 - x**2 + x +3)
    g = sympy.lambdify([x], -x**2 + x +2)

X = np.linspace(-2,2,100)

ax.plot(X, f(X))
    ax.plot(X, g(X))
    plt.show()
```



16 Curve fitting with sympy from first principles

Say we are given a list on 20 data points:

```
In [1]: data = [
          (1.36, 3.18),
          (1.19, 0.13),
          (2.95, 10.54),
          (2.84, 9.59),
          (0.44, -1.69),
          (2.83, 6.43),
          (1.39, 0.13),
          (1.88, 2.32),
          (1.23, -0.41),
          (0.92, -0.11),
          (0.97, 1.14),
          (2.19, 4.05),
          (2.02, 4.39),
          (2.48, 5.54),
          (1.2, 0.94),
          (0.22, -0.92),
          (0.3, 1.8),
          (1.02, 1.4),
          (0.07, 0.94),
```

```
(2.82, 6.72),
```

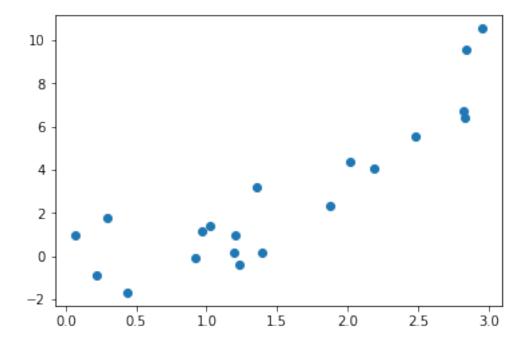
Let's visualize our data on a scatter plot:

```
In [2]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import numpy as np

fig,ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()

dataX, dataY = zip(*data)
    ax.plot(dataX, dataY, "o")

plt.show()
```



In []:

We want to fit a curve through these data points as closely as possible.

First, we need to choose a type of curve before we can start fitting it to the data. Let's assume that we want to fit the graph of the following function to our data: $f(x) := ax^2 + bx + c$

Now, we need to find numbers the parameters a,b and c so that the curve matches the data as closely as possible.

We begin just by guessing: Say $f_1(x) := x^2 + 2x - 1$

```
sympy.init_printing()
f1 = sympy.lambdify([x], x**2 + 2*x - 1)
```

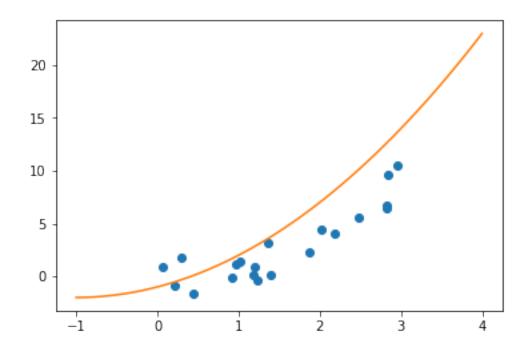
Let's plot this guess, together with our data:

```
In [6]: fig,ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()

X = np.linspace(-1,4)

dataX, dataY = zip(*data)
    ax.plot(dataX, dataY, "o")
    ax.plot(X, f1(X))

plt.show()
```

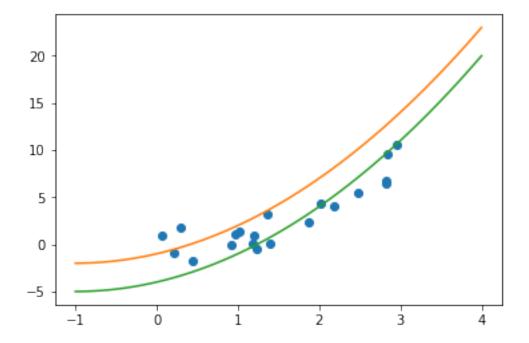


Not bad! But it goes a bit high, let's shift it down in our next guess. Let's try $f_2(x) := x^2 + 2x - 4$.

In [7]:
$$f2 = sympy.lambdify([x], x**2 + 2*x - 4)$$

... and plot our guesses f_1 and f_2 with our given data:

```
dataX, dataY = zip(*data)
ax.plot(dataX, dataY, "o")
ax.plot(X, f1(X))
ax.plot(X, f2(X))
plt.show()
```



Better, but f_2 's graph is a bit low on the left.

There must be a better way, rather than guessing!

Our data is a set of 20 points data = $\{(x_i, y_i) : i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, ... 19\}\}$. We want to simutaneously MINIMIZE the DISTANCE from the data points (x_i, y_i) to the points on the graph of f, i.e., the points $(x_i, f(x_i))$ For every i, the distance from (x_i, y_i) to $(x_i, f(x_i))$ is:

$$\sqrt{(x_i - x_i)^2 + (y_i - f(x_i))^2} = \sqrt{(y_i - f(x_i))^2} = |y_i - f(x_i)|.$$

Minimization? Perhaps we can use calculus?

The absoulte value $x \mapsto |x|$ is NOT differentiable at zero. Rather let's use the square of the DISTANCE from the data points (x_i, y_i) to the points on the graph of f. That is

$$(x_i - x_i)^2 + (y_i - f(x_i))^2 = (y_i - f(x_i))^2.$$

This is for one data point, but we want this quantity to be small for all datapoints.

Lets consider the sum of all these quantities:

$$\sum_{(x_i, y_i) \in \text{data}} (y_i - f(x_i))^2 = \sum_{(x_i, y_i) \in \text{data}} (y_i - (ax_i^2 + bx_i + c))^2$$

If we can find values of a,b,c that makes the above quantity small, as small as possible, we are in business! This is now our objective!

Let's use sympy to compute the above quantity for our 20 given data points.

```
In [9]: from sympy.abc import x,a,b,c
    import sympy

    f = sympy.lambdify([x], a*x**2+ b*x+c)
    objective = sum( (y_i - f(x_i))**2 for x_i,y_i in data)

In [10]: sympy.simplify(objective)

Out[10]:

374.39609912a² + 295.32802ab + 125.212ac - 725.80455a + 62.606b² + 60.64bc - 277.3806b + 20.0c² - 112.22c + 383.
```

Notice how this expression is only in the parameters a, b, and c. We must find the values a, b, and c for which the objective is a minimum. This can only happen where the objective has a critical point, i.e., its partial derivatives to a,b,c are simultaneously zero. This will be discussed in more detail in a course on multivariate calculus

(See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_point_(mathematics)#Several_variables) I.e., We must solve the following system of three equations:

 $\{a: 1.5425209779946, \quad b: -1.66731287670701, \quad c: 0.504592903671337\}$

These are the parameters we want. Let's substiture into $ax^2 + bx + c$

Out[25]:

```
In [16]: fitted_expression = (a*x**2+b*x+c).subs(parameters)
         fitted_expression
Out[16]:
                1.5425209779946x^2 - 1.66731287670701x + 0.504592903671337
  Let's make a function out of this expression
In [19]: fitted_f = sympy.lambdify([x], fitted_expression)
   ... and plot it against our previous guesses and our data:
In [22]: fig,ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()
         X = np.linspace(-1,4)
         dataX, dataY = zip(*data)
         ax.plot(dataX, dataY, "o")
         ax.plot(X, f1(X))
         ax.plot(X, f2(X))
         ax.plot(X, fitted_f(X))
         plt.show()
          20
          15
```

10

5

0

-5

Notice, that our fitted function closely fits the data, closer than our arbitrary guesses.

1

ż

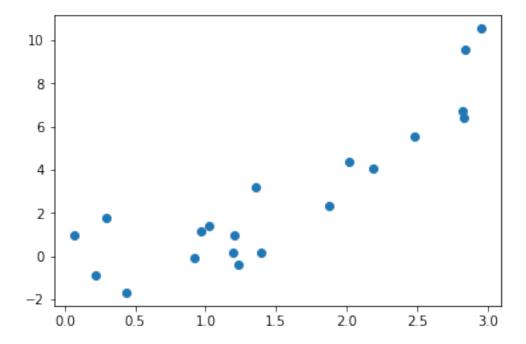
ż

17 Curve fitting with numpy

Say we are given a list on 20 data points:

```
In [4]: data = [
          (1.36, 3.18),
          (1.19, 0.13),
          (2.95, 10.54),
          (2.84, 9.59),
          (0.44, -1.69),
          (2.83, 6.43),
          (1.39, 0.13),
          (1.88, 2.32),
          (1.23, -0.41),
          (0.92, -0.11),
          (0.97, 1.14),
          (2.19, 4.05),
          (2.02, 4.39),
          (2.48, 5.54),
          (1.2, 0.94),
          (0.22, -0.92),
          (0.3, 1.8),
          (1.02, 1.4),
          (0.07, 0.94),
          (2.82, 6.72),
        ]
```

Let's visualize our data on a scatter plot:



We will use the numpy "polyfit" and "poly1d functions to fit polynomials to our data using a "least squares fit"

We can look up these functions' help to understand how to use them:

For any n points we can fit a unique (n-1)th-degree polynomial through the points so that the polynomial passes exactly through the data points.

Lets find the coefficients of a 19th degree polynomial p that passes through all 20 points using the fucntion numpy.polyfit:

/home/miek/stuff/devenv/lib/python3.6/site-packages/ipykernel_launcher.py:2: RankWarning: Polyfi

Let's look at these coefficients:

```
5.72029885e+06, -8.69702146e+06, -2.55751219e+07, 1.56254880e+08, -3.95305093e+08, 6.32806621e+08, -7.01142368e+08, 5.51343098e+08, -3.06943392e+08, 1.18340402e+08, -3.02547577e+07, 4.75522618e+06, -3.98557673e+05, 1.25918369e+04])
```

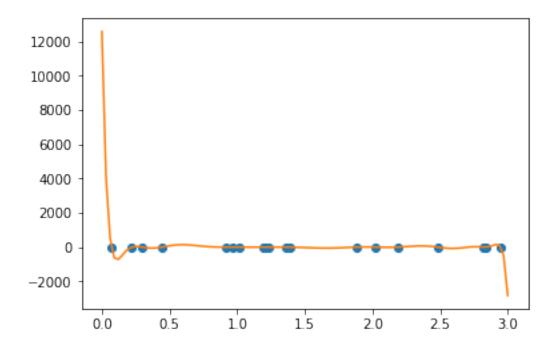
We construct a function using numpy.poly1d, that outputs the value of the polynomial with these coeficients

```
In [8]: p = np.poly1d(p_coeffs)
```

We can see what this polynomial is by evaluating p(x) with x some sympy symbol.

```
-318.53966981043x^{19} + 6686.0336559197x^{18} - 58957.0950235226x^{17} + 267908.424710235x^{16} - 532306.603594159x^{18} - 532306.603594747x^{18} - 532306.6035947x^{18} - 532306.603597x^{18} - 532306.60357x^{18} - 532306.6037x^{18} - 532306.6037x^{
```

Compare the coefficients of our polynomial with the numbers in p_coeffs! Let us plot our data and out polynomial p together:



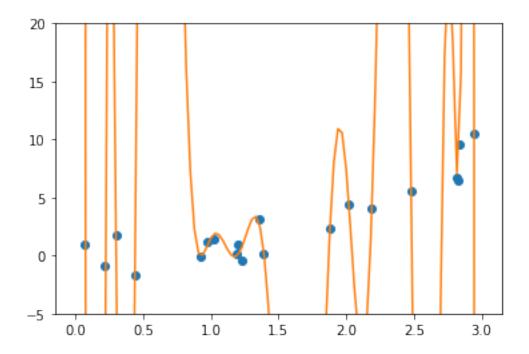
Notice how this 19th degree polynomial passes through every data point, but oscilates quite wildly out of the range of the Y-coordinates of the data points: the interval [-2,9]. This polynomial is "over fitted" to the data.

Let's look closer:

```
In [12]: X = np.linspace(0,3,100)

fig, ax = plt.figure(), plt.axes()
ax.set_ylim(-5,20)

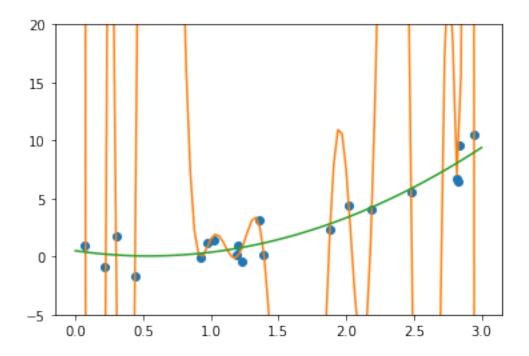
ax.plot(dataX,dataY, "o")
ax.plot(X,p(X))
plt.show()
```



Let us fit 2nd degree polynomial q, i.e., a parabola, to the same data (compare with the coefficients we computed in the previous chapter!):

 $1.5425209779946x^2 - 1.66731287670702x + 0.50459290367134$

... and plot our data along with p and q on the same set of axes:



Notice how the parabola does not pass through all the datapoints, but matches the overall trend of the data much closer than the 19th degree polynomial.

That is not unexpected if you consider how our data points were generated:

```
In []: import random
    X = [round(random.uniform(0,3), 2) for _ in range(20)]
    Y = [round(x**2 + random.uniform(-2,2), 2) for x in X]
    data = list(zip(X,Y))
```